GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2458
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
BUDDHIST SITES
Jena Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Buddhist sites located at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri and Udayagiri in the Jajpur district of Orissa are not getting due attention;

(b) if so, the number of tourists visited these sites during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to popularise the information on these sites, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the steps taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to connect these Buddhist sites through air and rail separately and the result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) Centrally protected monuments / sites under the control of Archaeological Survey of India at Lalitgiri, Udayagiri and Ratnagiri in the Jajpur district of Orissa are receiving adequate attention by way of conservation, preservation and environment development.

(b) The details of number of tourist who visited these sites during the last three years is as under :

Year	Number of visitors
2004-05	15820
2005-06	18461
2006-07	20703

(c) & (d) Ministry of Tourism has launched Information and Promotion campaigns for promoting Tourism in respect of Buddhist Sites. The overseas offices of the Ministry of Tourism are actively involved in promoting the Buddhist sites of India including those in Orissa. In integrated promotion campaigns in the overseas markets particularly in South East Asian region, Buddhism has been adopted as one of the major themes. In the Domestic market, a campaign for celebration 2550 years of Mahaparinirvana of Lord Buddha has been launched. Ministry of Tourism through its Incredible India website provides specific information about Buddhist sites in Orissa including Udayagiri, Ratnagiri and Lalitfiri. Ministry of Tourism has brought out special brochures and leaflets for promoting excursion to Buddhist sites including Udaigiri, Ratnagiri and Lalitgiri.

Ministry of Tourism has been pursuing the matter of upgradation of road, rail and air connectivity to various tourist sites including Buddhist sites with concerned ministries of Surface Transport, Railways and Civil Aviation.